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City's Tears

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part, but expanded, branching into new categories of understanding. Through my own observations, I can now see the person beyond what the surface shows and a raw vulnerability we all have inside us. I have a new understanding of the pressures and uncertainties of life, and that sometimes when people make bad decisions, they aren't always being made rationally. Life can blind even the strongest willed person into making a bad decision in a moment of great weakness. Changed now is not only my perspective on the homeless, but on people in general. Instead of seeing just the dirt and rags, and sunken eyes and starved ribs, I can now see a struggling human, one who has a story to tell. I see a person who has

lost and loved, a person who is desperately searching for something that she lacks. I can now understand that no one is inherently choosing homelessness, despite what they might say. These are all beautiful souls who have been consumed by the darkness of the monsters they fight. I see a people who at one time had a family to love them, just as my family loves Amy. I see humanity. I have always felt sorry for the homeless, but now, instead of pity, it is empathy that shines through. The old truths I was told when I was young are all still present, but the depth and insight I have gained from personal experience has dissolved the fog over my eyes and now lets me see the person inside.



CITY'S TEARS Andrew Barba